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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,970	12/20/2001	Karl Hansen	24,954-25	9112

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EXAMINER

COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/033,970

Applicant(s)

HANSEN, KARI

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-15 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "interlocking structure" lacks antecedent basis, it appears that it should be --aperture--. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the claimed subject matter of claim 12 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Neal U.S. Patent 2,043,861. Neal shows all of the claimed limitations of an apparatus in Figures 1-5.

Regarding claim 1, an apparatus for coupling comprising: a first member having 11 an aperture disposed at an engaging region; a coupling member 2 having an external thread set and having a complementary portion for engaging the aperture; and a second member 11 having an internal thread set adapted to engage the external thread set of the coupling member 2 thereby connecting the second member 11 to the first member 11.

Regarding claim 2, wherein the first member 11 is a planar element.

Regarding claim 3, wherein aperture is formed in a region adjacent an edge portion of the first member 11.

Regarding claim 4, wherein the first member 11 (also part 10 can be viewed as part the first member, and meeting the definition of more than one aperture) has more than one aperture.

Regarding claim 5, wherein said aperture is a slot.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the coupling member 2 has a larger diameter dimension than a thickness dimension of the first member. (The thickness of one side of a member 11 is less than diameter).

Regarding claim 10, an apparatus for connecting two members 11 together comprising: a first member 11 having an engaging region, and a slot disposed at the engaging region; an elongate threaded coupling member 2 having an external thread set and an engaging portion for the first member 11, said threaded coupling member 2 removably engaging the slot; and a second member 11 having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member 2,

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wherein when said external thread set of the threaded coupling member is threadedly received within the internal thread set said threaded coupling member securely binds the first member to the second member.

Regarding claim 11, wherein elongate threaded coupling member 2 is two longitudinal portions of a threaded shank each having an threaded exterior surface and a substantially flat interior surface.

Regarding claim 12, wherein the first member 11 engages the substantially flat interior surface of one of the two longitudinal portions of the threaded shank. (the flat parts of the threads)

Regarding claim 13, wherein the thickness of the first member is less than a diameter of the internal thread set. (The thickness of one side of a member 11 is less than diameter).

Regarding claim 14, an apparatus for joining two members 11 via a threaded coupling member 2, said apparatus comprising: a first member 11 having an aperture disposed proximate an edge; an elongate threaded coupling member 2 having an external thread set and an engaging portion corresponding to the aperture of the first member 11, said threaded coupling member 2 removably engaging the aperture and extending away from the edge of the first member; and a second member 11 having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member to securely bind the first member to the second member.

Regarding claim 15, wherein the interlocking structure 11 is more than one interlocking structure.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wales U.S. Patent 2,352,297 shows a similar invention.
4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

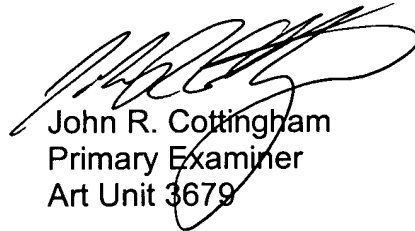
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.



John R. Cottingham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

jrc